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Lodi During the War Against Germany

Even before the war between Germany and the United States started, German Americans were feeling the pressure. The German-American Society of San Joaquin County voted allegiance to America. The German Cash Store on Elm Street changed to Jensens. The German restaurant on Sacramento Street changed its name to The White Front Restaurant.

On March 10, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson armed all America's merchant ships because of German unrestricted U-Boat warfare. This was followed by the sinking of four American Merchantman vessels. On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked a joint session of Congress to declare war. Four days later the Senate voted 82-6 for war with Germany. Less than a week later, fifty Lodi boys signed up to defend the United States. Ed Devine, Herbert Wallace, S. Lumsden, John Eccle, Dwight Keiley and H.W. Mason were a few of the boys drilling in town as recruits. Mayor Frank O. Hale urged conservation of food supplies as sugar and flour rose in price, and had the City illuminate the United States flag at City Hall.

By the end of April the high school was releasing boys to work for the harvest of crops. The Red Cross was forming first-aid classes and the Japanese community gave a large sum to help the project.

Posters were posted by some German sympathizers to hinder recruiting but on June 5th, 200 Lodians registered for the draft. All stores closed except drug stores. The end of June saw the first 50 enlistees honored with a parade. Two Lodi girls, Letitia and Amy Adrich signed up as nurses for the French battlefield and Miss Lydia Keast joined the Red Cross. On July 30th the Lodi Lodge Knights of Pythias held a patriotic parade with the Tokay Band and had over 2,000 spectators. On August 7, 1917, an anti-draft meeting was held in Lodi at Maple Hall with 25 in attendance. The speaker, Attorney Daniel O'Connel from San Francisco, advised boys to refuse to sign the draft form. The agitator O'Connel was arrested by the United States Marshal two days later. Four Lodi boys, calling themselves "American Patriots, Inc.," were jailed for not signing and conspiracy against the draft law. Before the month was over 20 more boys and a German minister were indicted as draft agitators. These boys were from families of Germans that moved to Russia to obtain farm land and escape military service. Later they moved to the Dakotas and are now living in rural Lodi. Five weeks later Daniel O'Connel, the agitator, received a seven year sentence. The minister turned state evidence and all the Lodi boys who were dodging the draft were now ready and willing to fight for their country and flag. They were not so much pro-Germany but instead mainly anti-military. German born, Fred Koenig had now claimed American citizenship and was anxious to serve this nation. In fact, by September 1st, Lodi had set a record for enlistments.

Hilliard E. Welch delivered a forceful four minute speech to a large crowd in the Tokay Theater giving the reasons for the war against Germany.

The town really got behind the war effort with money for Liberty Bonds, and making clothing and bandages for the boys in French trenches. Christmas boxes for soldiers and a carload of Lodi Tokay grapes for the boys at Camp Lewis were also donated.

November 9, 1918, the German Kaiser was hung in effigy. The 20' "100 Percent American" sign was installed in May of that same year. It has 12-inch transparent letters with 24 electric lights and was readable from both sides. Note the wearing of the masks. This was prevention for the spread of the Spanish Influenza.

The local newspaper started a tobacco fund for the boys in the service. For every 25¢ contributed a package of tobacco would be sent to one of our boys in France. Each package would contain two packs of Lucky Strike Cigarettes, three packs of Bull Durham and one tin of Tuxedo tobacco, seven packs of cigarette paper and one stamped post card addressed to the person who contributed the gift. This 45¢ worth of smokes would reach the soldier for 25¢ because the U.S. Government waived the Internal Tax, the French Government waived the Duty Tax and the Red Cross would transport it free.

As the Lodi Engineers Company was ordered to the French front, the women of Lodi prepared 100 Christmas boxes which contained a writing pad, envelopes, a deck of cards, pipe tobacco, cigarettes, cookies and candies at a cost of $1.50 each. General Leonard Wood said that tobacco was necessary for the pleasure and contentment of American soldiers after a days hard fighting or waiting for same. The truth about the evils of smoking were still in the future. The patriotic push in Lodi with an all out effort for the Red Cross and Liberty Bond drives was taking its toll.

Sunday morning, November 4, 1917, a most prominent and substantial citizen was hung in effigy at the Tokay Arch. Across the chest was a large placard:

FIRST LIBERTY LOAN — 0
SECOND LIBERTY LOAN — 0
RED CROSS FUND — 0

Later the accused stated, "I have no money for Liberty Bonds and I do not believe in war or doing something to help it along."

The son of this man, hearing of the early morning disgraceful proceeding, arrived at the scene shortly after 8:00 A.M., secured a ladder and cut down the loaded dummy. The rope, however, still remained dangling from the Arch and was pointed to during the day by some who were happy over the act, and others who expressed deep regret.

There was a lot of belt tightening and strong commitment for the war effort in Lodi. The United States President asked Herbert Hoover to help and he started by asking everyone to sign a pledge to conserve food. He wanted every home to keep a pig. Flour and meat were the targets. Monday and Wednesday were wheatless days and Tuesday and Saturday porkless days. The Lodi Home Bakery reported a run on bran bread for wheatless days. Bread cards were issued and sugar was rationed. The grocers were under orders to limit sales of sugar to two pounds per person each week and sell an equal amount of substitute flour for each purchase of white flour. The White Front grocery store was charged with violating wheat conservation rules and the government closed the store for a week as a result.

German aliens were directed to register with the Postmaster.

In January 1918, $6,559.00 was raised for the Red Cross even though a few pro-German parents refused to permit their children to wear Red Cross pins.

That same month the first Lodi soldier died in France from TB and pneumonia.

A Loyalty League was formed at the opera house. No pro-German talk was allowed.

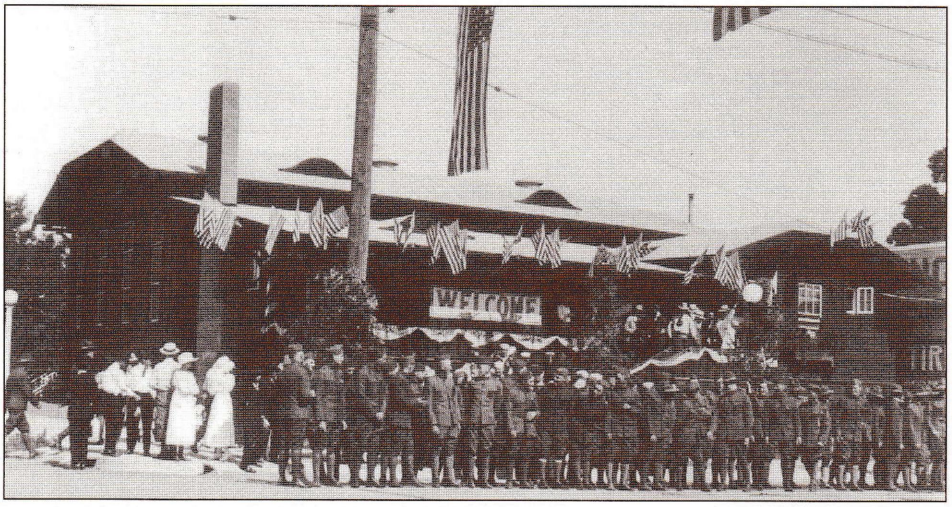
On April 9, 1918 the Lodi High School was the first school in California to stop the study of German language and substituted Spanish.

Two Lodi sisters were arrested under sedition for making anti-American statements many times. They both were sentenced to forty days in jail and $100.00 fines for disloyalty.

The new sign for "100% Americans" was installed on the Lodi Arch. Superintendent John Henning reported the twenty foot long sign with 24 electric lights was readable from both sides with 12" transparent letters.

The four-minute men were giving patriotic talks at all eleven local German speaking churches. John Bauer was presenting patriotic musical programs each Tuesday night at Municipal Park.

In early June the Lockeford Picnic made over $11,000.00 for the Red Cross. A month later a benefit concert for the Red Cross was held at Eagles Hall with Maurice Hill at the piano. Rosabelle Wakefield sang, accompanied by Ernest West.



Eagles Hall on the northwest corner of Sacramento and Locust Streets, June 4, 1919

The bums in Lodi parks were ordered to work or face a fine.

The W.C.T.U. was in charge of a rag and rubber drive and the Red Cross was collecting peach pits for the army to use as a filtering element in gas masks.

Clyde Needham, first enlisted man of Lodi, died on the firing line at Flanders, France.

At the end of September, 1918 Lodi was starting its fourth Liberty Loan drive.

Also starting was the Spanish influenza and by October 12th, there were seven cases in Lodi. Ten days later there were 250 cases and four deaths reported in the newspaper due to the influenza.

The citizens of Lodi were asked to wear a mask or go to jail for ten days. It was decided to use Maple Hall as a flu hospital. There were three people cited for not wearing masks November 15th and 14 patients in the Lodi flu hospital.

On November 9th someone hung the German Kaiser in effigy under the Arch.

News that the German army had surrendered was received in Lodi about 1:00 A.M., November 11, 1918 and bedlam broke loose. The fire whistle was blown, the church bells were rung and in a short time

most everybody was on the streets. Those with automobiles were blowing and tooting their horns.

About 4:00 A.M. the Eagles' Drum Corps was leading a procession of happy throngs shouting and singing.

Hundreds of citizens went to Stockton to join the celebration of victory. They returned about 3:00 P.M. to Lodi in time to join a procession formed at the Eagles Hall and marching all over town, halting at the Lodi Arch where a platform had been erected and a celebration was to be held.

C.C. Woodward was elected to preside. This followed with a patriotic song by a quartet comprised of Wm. Brown, Floyd Lyon, S.C. Ferguson and Rev. J.W. Swimley. Hilliard E. Welch and Rev. E. J. Bradner gave patriotic addresses.

By the 1st of December the influenza seemed to be about over. The City of Lodi was citing the cost of $2,800. to run the hospital, $1,600 for equipment and $1,200 for labor (nurses). They are asking patients to pay $1.00 a day. The nurses needed their money.

The lull in flu patients was short lived as a new flare-up began in a few weeks.

The doctors were baffled by the new cases in Lodi. There were three kinds of flu germs. The first two could be treated but the last was usually fatal.

Miss Edna Ivory died at Mason Hospital. She was 24 years old and a nurse at Dameron. As the influenza spread, the Lodi Health Board, Dr. Hopkins, Dr. Nelson, J.C. Bewley, W.H. Faust and George W. LeMoine closed all public places and again urged the wearing of the mask.

The street talk urged eating onions and chewing tobacco. Traffic officer Charles Fisher was arresting every autoist in the city limits with mufflers open. They had no respect for the ill people at home and in the hospital.

On January 23, 1919 it was reported that for two days in Lodi and northern San Joaquin County there were no deaths from Spanish influenza. This was the first time in four months.

The next month, Mrs. Orrion Cook, Red Cross nurse in France arrived home in Lodi.

In the middle of March a few of the Lodi soldiers arrived home and in April the 117th Lodi engineers with the Rainbow Division arrived in New York and a few days later Victor Myers, Clyde Giles, Theodore Elwert, Emil Graffigna, Pete McLaughlan, Del Gammen, Clede McArthur, Bernard Jones, Lester Bishofberger, Earl Burlington, J. Crawford, Victor Wyatt and James Clausen were parading in Washington, D.C.

Other heroes, Joe DePaoli, Air Hanley, Charles Perano, Charles Freeman and Everett McKenzie arrived in Lodi.

On May 22, 1919 the Lodi Business Men's Association decided to have a homecoming after Hilliard E. Welch introduced the matter. Mr. Welch made a splendid speech which rang with patriotism. He said that it was the time to give the celebration of appreciation before the boys got scattered. Many of the boys would soon be seeking employment in different parts of the country and if the celebration was not held then, it would soon be too late.

The proposition took like wild fire. It was decided to spare no pains or expense in making this the biggest event ever held in Lodi. Even bigger than any 4th of July ever held. It would probably be a holiday for everyone. The schools and all business houses would close. There would be a big parade with bands and floats, fraternal organizations plus all of the returning soldiers and sailors in uniform.

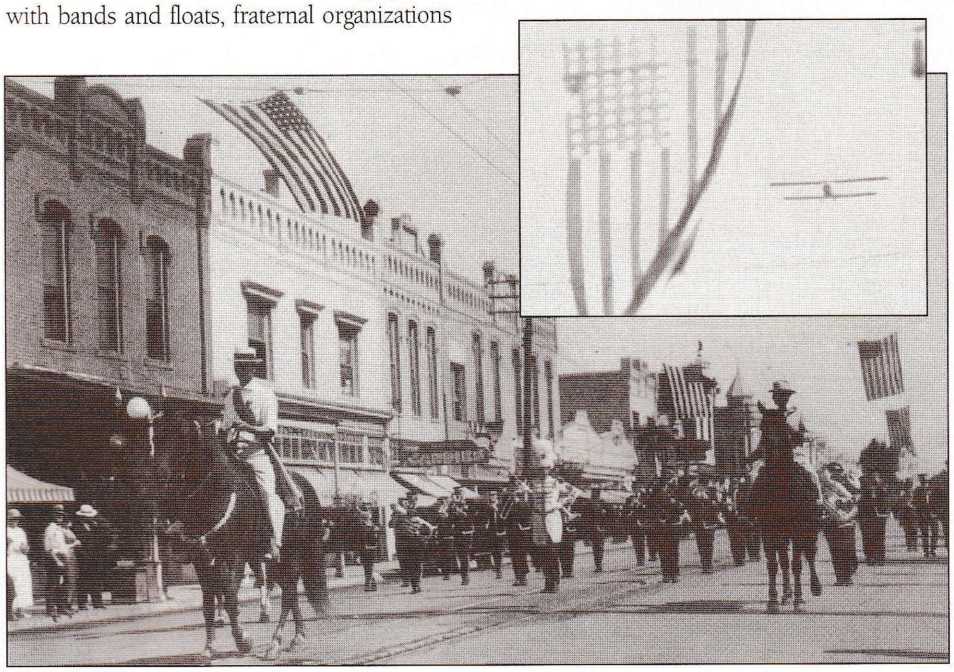
There would be speaking, singing, general entertainment, a big barbecue and night dancing.

June 4, 1919 was picked as the day for the Welcome Home Jubilee. W.C. Brown was appointed chairman of a joint committee of the business men W.H. Fause, Joe Friedberger and J.A. Coveney and all the members of the community council, President H.E. Welch, Vice President J.S. Montgomery, Secretary J.K. Newfield, D.D. Smith, George Keagle, Wilson H. Thompson, W.A. Spooner and Fred Dougherty.

They proposed to raise $3,500 for a parade at 10:00 A.M., barbecue at noon, amusement all afternoon for all the returned soldiers, sailors and marines and dancing on the streets at night. Everything was to be free for servicemen and their girls. Even a dish of ice cream or a glass of lemonade.

The streets of Lodi were beautifully decorated with 200 fresh evergreen trees obtained by O.H. Wells on two trips above Mountain Ranch. The two lowest globes of the business district electroliers were painted red and blue giving a patriotic blaze.

The celebration began with a fine parade which started at 10:00 A.M. The parade chairman F.A. Dougherty and his assistant V.R. Larson formed the participants at the newly built Eagles' Hall on the northwest corner of Sacramento and Locust Streets.



Grand Marshals: W.C. Brown, F.A. Dougerty and Harry T. Bailey; followed by the Tokay Band, march along Sacramento Street near Pine, north. Inset: Mather Field Army Airplane in front of the parade.

The line of march passed through the main downtown street and halted at the platform near the Tokay Arch.

The parade was led by Grand Marshalls W.C. Brown, F.A. Dougherty and Harry T. Bailey all riding prancing horses. This was followed by the Tokay Band and then the

honored guests — 175 soldiers and sailors led by Major Walter E. Garrison, Lt. Gammon, Lt. McClelland and Lt. Tindel. Next was the Hartford G.A.R. Post, Spanish American veterans, Boy Scouts led by Professor Porter on horseback, four official gold star autos, Mrs. H.R. Hugo, Mrs. L. Rossi, Mrs. P.M. Pearce and Mrs. L.M. Spencer, the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the Red Cross of the Tokay district, Live Oak, Lafayette, Lavella, Acampo, Woodbridge, Lockeford, Clements and Thornton, with white dresses and head bands, war workers and Business Men's Association.

The second division had over 2,000 children from Victor, Turner, Live Oak, Liberty, Henderson and Alpine schools. Scholars dressed in red, white and blue. The children were dressed in their Sunday best, carrying flags, wreaths and beautiful flowers.

The forty piece Italian Band of Stockton was next, followed by the Lodi schools.

Four girls from Emerson School dressed in red, white and blue. The Salem girls carried ribbons and were headed by Uncle Sam in costume. The boys wore red, white and blue caps, with a large blue star carried in the center forming a complete service flag in appearance.

Lincoln School was led by Maureen Edwards dressed as Columbia. The students all carried wreaths, flags and flowers.

The Lodi Union High School carried a number of banners showing the splendid war work accomplished. "Red Cross Membership 100 percent, YMCA $1,131, Christmas boxes sent to soldiers 134, surgical dressings 50,600, war savings stamps $4,123, war bonds $19,000, Red Cross $1,002, and other charities $825." The girls in white carried a large flag.

Next, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Native Sons, Lodi Eagles with drum corps dressed in white, the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, and Redmen with a team in uniform and war paint.

The churches were next, Methodist and Congregational carrying flags, including their service flag.

◄ *Major Walter E. Garrison, Lt. Gammon, Lt. McClellan and Lt. Tindel, leading 175 returning soldiers. June 4, 1919*

Henderson School

▲ *Houston School marching in the parade.*

► *Lincoln School in front of the Beckman, Welch and Thompson building. June 4, 1919*

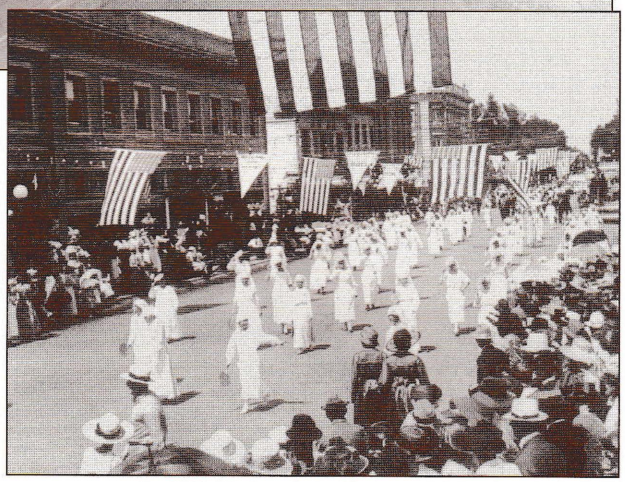
The Japanese Association was in the rear and capped the climax with a remarkable display with about 40 in number dressed in white with a 50 foot by 75 foot American flag.

Two airplanes from Mather Field arrived at 10:25 while the parade was in full blast. Earl Neubig, U.S. aviator did all kinds of daredevil stunts right over the town of Lodi. Ray Gerard prepared a 1,500' strip across from Smiths Lake for a landing place.

Immediately following the parade, Hilliard E. Welch gave the speech of welcome to the returning servicemen. The crowd gave close attention to his words. The text was printed in newspapers. The San Francisco Examiner sent a reporter, Gilbert G. Weigle to Lodi to cover the mammoth homecoming with a full page spread on the first page of the second section. Pathe Newsreel took moving pictures of the parade.

Community singing followed right after the speech with Rev. W.A. Schwimley in charge. Five vocalists assisted and Miss Gladys Walter was the accompanist. Printed

▲ *Lodi Japanese Association carrying a 50' by 75' flag.*



▲ *Lodi Red Cross Workers parade on Pine Street, June 4, 1919*

◄ *Navy Mascot*

▼ *35 Returning Navy Veterans, June 4, 1919*

Women's Relief Corps in parade, June 4, 1919

words of popular and patriotic songs were distributed. A piano was mounted upon a truck and moved from place to place during the day and when a crowd formed there, community singing took place. List of songs: "The Battle Cry of Freedom," "Over There," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "There's a Long, Long Trail," "Keep the Home Fires Burning," "Old Black Joe," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," and "Tipperary."

The large barbecue at 1:00 P.M. in Municipal Park (Hale) involved almost everyone. Dr. J.P. Sargent was in charge with Manuel Silva as the Chef; W.A. Spooner and J.S. Montgomery headed committees. 731 persons were offered two pounds of choice beef and one pound of mutton per person.

The Red Cross waitresses were in caps and aprons with badges that said, "Kitchen Police." They served potato salad, green onions, radishes, olives, pickles, cheese, bread, home-made cakes, coffee and ice cream.

The Barbecue Decorations Committee was comprised of Mesdames D.D. Smith, Geo. H. Moore, Melber Ayers, L.B. Hines and Bert Rinfret.

Those setting tables were J.T. Caldwell, W.H. Lorenz, Cecil Chaney, Chas. Guggolz, J.C. Bewley, Chas. Villinger, A.V. Friedberger, F. Archer, Wm. Dunsmore, Frank Ralls, Geo. Rich, Edwin Steacy and Miss Alta Anderson.

In charge of coffee were Mesdames A.J. Cook, W.W. Henderson and L.I. Hause. Mrs.

(left to right): Mae M. Perrin, Tina Gildean, Jennie Blair, and Philoma Ferguson

J.E. Nelson was handling the cakes and Mrs. Chas. Pickering the pies.

Mesdames H.S. Clark, Bar Zellotti and Chas. Ferguson helped in other areas as did all the Lodi businessmen and their wives.

The supper, five hours later, was the same except substitute 200 pies that seven different church ladies' groups made, plus cheese. Only 600 people showed up for this.

The first event of the afternoon was the ball game between the Lodi Athletics and Plymouth, Amador County for a $100.00 purse.

The heat of the afternoon did not prevent the young people from dancing to the jazz music of Patton & Springer.

The Japanese exhibitions of jui-jitso wrestling and bamboo pole fencing was popular as well as prize swimming at the Municipal Baths.

Tommy Young was first and David Piazzi next in the under-12 pie eating contest.

The navy sailors had no chance in the tug of war with the army boys.

The last event was the popular prize fights against Sacramento and Woodland for the Championship of Lodi.

All afternoon there was a band concert by the United States Railroad Administration Shop Band of Sacramento. The 35 pieces played next to a 20' by 100' dance platform built at the park with first class lumber.

After supper there was a street parade and more band concerts until 9:00 P.M. when Joe Friedberger presented his splendid assortment of fireworks. The Big Dance in the evening on Pine near School streets with two brass bands played alternately with confetti and serpentine galore capped by the mardi gras.

The next day the business men had to go out and get the rest of $5,000 needed as only $1,500 had been collected so far. They were too busy planning the event the last two weeks.

Corporal Ralph Lee, epitomized the thoughts of all the soldiers and sailors by remarking, "It was a great day." The thing he

June 4, 1919; Municipal Park (Hale);
Members of the Barbecue Committee: Manuel Silva, Dr. J.P. Sargent, W.A. Spooner and J.S. Montgomery.

Red Cross women serving barbecued ribs to soldiers, Municipal Park, June 4, 1919

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liked was seeing the Lodi Engineers, minus Clyde Needham, back home after going through hell for a few days in the thickest battle, where 3,000 lost their lives in France.

The Lodi Sentinel Editors, Moore and Roper, paid the compliment to the community for a most glorious celebration and showed unbounded joy in welcoming home our heroes and not forgetting the debt it owed to the memories of the 27 boys who made the supreme sacrifice. It must have been a comfort to the Gold Star Mothers to know that homage to their sons was also shown.

The 27 boys who paid with their lives from the Lodi District:

James B. Anderson
John G. Anderson
Harold E. Cary
Joseph Drabkin
August Frey
Ralph Gillespie
Herbert Hovard
Wilbur Hugill
Alexander Linde
George Mauch
Clyde Needham
James Miller
Virgil Pearce
Charles R. Patten
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